

INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY	East Germany/USSR	REPORT	
SUBJECT	Re-Enlistees in the Soviet Army	DATE DISTR.	20 December 1955
DATE OF INFO.		NO. OF PAGES	9
PLACE ACQUIRED		REQUIREMENT NO.	RD
DATE ACQUIRED		REFERENCES	25X1

SOURCE EVALUATIONS ARE DEFINITIVE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.

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ARMY review completed.

25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

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STATE	#X	ARMY	#X	NAVY	#X	AIR	#X	FBI	AEC						
(Note: Washington distribution indicated by "X"; Field distribution by "#".)															

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REPORT

DEFECTOR RECEPTION CENTER

COUNTRY USSR/East Germany

DATE DISTR. 21 Nov 1955

SUBJECT Information on Re-Enlistees Within
the Soviet Army

NO. OF PAGES 8

DATE OF INFORMATION

REFERENCES:

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PLACE ACQUIRED

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

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25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

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INFORMATION ON RE-ENLISTEES WITHIN THE SOVIET ARMY

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Gds Mecz Regt, 6th Gds Mecz Div located at Bad Freienwalde (N 52-46, E 14-03), East Germany. 1

Attitude of Conscripts Toward Re-enlistees

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the ordinary soldier looked upon the re-enlistee as a "rather strange animal" who stayed in the Army not only because of many extra privileges but also because he normally had nothing to look forward to if he entered civilian life. He would be a person who could not or did not have sufficient education or training necessary to get a fairly decent job there. the fact that a nick-name for re-enlistees was "macaroni eaters" indicated how others of the enlisted ranks looked upon the re-enlistees. 2

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Privileges of Re-enlistees

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privileges given to re-enlistees were primary reason why men re-enlisted.

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they were comparable to those received by officers.

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a. Better Positions

Re-enlistees could request a position which they desired because of the light work possibly involved or because such a position might be one in which the re-enlistee worked without too much supervision of his work or himself.

b. Pay

The pay of a re-enlistee was approximately 10 times greater than that of an ordinary soldier. In comparison, re-enlistee received 30 East German marks as a total salary per month. a first sergeant (non re-enlistee) received approximately 75 East German marks plus approximately 100 rubles per month which was placed in deposit for him. a re-enlistee stationed in East Germany received approximately 300 East German marks per month and in addition had between 400 to 500 rubles per month deposited in the Soviet Union which he would not receive until he reentered the Soviet Union. Each month the Finance Section of the regiment entered that amount of rubles in a small record booklet which was kept on each re-enlistee and held in the office of the Finance Section. Upon departure from the regiment en route to the USSR, the individual concerned received that booklet and took it along himself. the individual then presented the booklet to the Voenkomat and at that time received the total amount of rubles due him.

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re-enlistees did not receive extra pay based upon years of service or number of re-enlistments

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they were paid only by duty position held, regardless of rank and according to a set pay-scale set up for re-enlistee personnel.

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c. Uniforms

Upon becoming a re-enlistee, an individual was issued a new uniform of a much better grade of material than that of uniforms issued to conscripts. The color of this uniform was similar to an officer's, a dark-green shade. Boots were also similar to officer's, having a high polish and gloss. Also [redacted] re-enlistees were issued uniform material free of charge; this could be sewed and made into uniforms, with the re-enlistee only paying the tailoring cost involved. [redacted]

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[redacted] re-enlistees might wear either the "pilotka" or the "furashka" (service cap or service hat). In most cases, they seemed to prefer wearing the "furashka" (service hat).

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d. Special Insignia Indicating Re-enlistment

Each re-enlistee [redacted] wore a gold-colored cloth "V" chevron on the left sleeve to indicate that he was a re-enlistee. [redacted]

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e. Passes

[redacted] the re-enlistee, unlike the ordinary soldier, would leave the military caserne area without escort during and after duty hours. Prior to 1955 the re-enlistee also could go to town without permission, but [redacted] this was changed in early 1955 so that the re-enlistee first had to receive permission from his CO prior to leaving. [redacted] not [redacted] it was mandatory for this to be a written permission [redacted] it was looked upon as only a formality. However, [redacted] leave the military caserne area without escort with this CO's permission.

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f. Admittance to Officers' Clubs

Re-enlistees have the privilege of entering officer theaters and clubs, much in the same manner as officers. Again [redacted] this was amended in early 1955 so that subsequently permission had to be obtained prior to such entry. However, [redacted] this was looked upon only as another formality.

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g. Quarters

Re-enlistees [redacted] lived separately from the ordinary soldier. In the case of his regiment, they lived above regimental headquarters, where the bachelor officers of the regiment lived. Normally each re-enlistee had a separate room [redacted] although it became necessary in 1954 to "double up" because of the unexpectedly large number that became re-enlistees (see section 5). Of the total number of re-enlistees within the regiment, only one did not live in the BOQ. [redacted] this one re-enlistee was sharing a room with a conscript first sergeant of one of the line companies [redacted] the privilege of living "off post" did not exist [redacted]

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h. Mess Facilities

Re-enlistees had the privilege of eating in the officers' dining room [redacted] Since this entailed the payment of approximately 80 to 100 East German marks per month, however, the great majority of [redacted]

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re-enlistees preferred to eat in the enlisted mess because of the money they could save. [redacted]

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1. Furloughs

Furlough privileges for re-enlistees were the same as those given to officers [redacted]. Each re-enlistee was entitled to a furlough of 45 days per year plus travel time. In addition, when travelling they were entitled to use fast passenger trains rather than having to travel in freight cars or going through a collecting point for the purpose of awaiting transportation, as was the case for the conscript.

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j. Dependents

[redacted] a re-enlistee might marry without permission. [redacted]

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k. Discipline

More leniency in punishment seemed to be extended to re-enlistees than to the conscript [redacted] this also might be due to the fact that a re-enlistee did work of a more important nature. The absence of such an individual from his position would therefore be felt more than that of a conscript. [redacted]

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[redacted] this leniency contributed much to the general heavy drinking and laxity in discipline among re-enlistees [redacted]

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[redacted] that although liquor was forbidden within the confines of the military caserne (even in the officer clubs since 1955) the CO's "closed their eyes" as long as drinking was kept within bounds and did not affect the performance of individuals.

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l. Working Hours

[redacted] the re-enlistee worked only eight hours a day, while the conscript had a longer duty day and/or worked until relieved by the order of the appropriate CO. [redacted] the re-enlistee did only the work required by his duty position; he did not have to participate in the regular tactical training taken by the ordinary soldier or in any additional work.

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m. Weapons Carried

[redacted] the re-enlistee was supposed to be armed with the weapon prescribed for the duty position held. However, re-enlistees preferred a pistol, and they obtained them by any means possible and used them in place of the prescribed weapon. [redacted] this was a privilege because of the greater ease and comfort of the pistol.

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n. Termination of Service

Upon the voluntary demobilization of a re-enlistee under honorable condition, he returned to the USSR on a passenger-type train without escort, just as though he were an officer. On the other hand, a re-enlistee discharged involuntarily was handled like an ordinary

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soldier. [redacted]

Attitude of Officers Toward Re-enlistees

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On the whole [redacted] officers treated re-enlistees in a much more friendly manner than they did conscripts. They drank with them, ate, and lived together with them; they showed them greater leniency in cases where infractions or regulations occurred. [redacted] officers looked upon re-enlistees as being somewhat below an officer but higher than the ordinary conscripted soldier, [redacted] officers continually agitated for the excellent soldiers to re-enlist, usually citing the advantages of better pay and other such privileges. [redacted] in most cases, the individual deemed to be an excellent soldier was not necessarily that individual who would be successful outside.

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Other Reasons for Re-enlistment

[redacted] men commonly re-enlisted for several reasons beyond the privileges enumerated in section 2 of this report. These would be a situation at home in which the man was unable to "get along", the absence of parents and thus of any family and/or home ties, a man not having sufficient education and/or training which would qualify him for a good job in civilian life and not having anything to look forward to except going back to a collective farm. Also, [redacted] a re-enlistee could save a large sum of money because of the relatively high pay scale, and could then go back home with enough to spend and live comfortably for a long time.

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Periods of Enlistment

[redacted] each re-enlistment was for a two-year period. [redacted]

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Number of Enlistments

Prior to 1954 [redacted] it was normal [redacted] for re-enlistments to number two to three a year. However, 25 conscripts attempted to become "sverkhsrochniki's" in 1954. The regimental CO disapproved six of these applications because of apparently adverse reports forwarded by their unit or section CO's. Of the remaining 19 conscripts seven were discharged during 1955 for drunkenness, fraternization and poor discipline [redacted]

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(1) Re-enlistees of more than one re-enlistment

Sgt Nikolai E. Vatazok
1st Sgt (fnu) Beleshev
Pvt (nu)

Clerk of finance section
First sergeant of 85 mm Btry
Musician

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2) First-term re-enlistees

Sgt Artur V. Masalskiy	Secret Documents Section
Jr Sgt Urij I. Maltsev	Supply
1st Sgt Mihail M. Nikolaev	Control Point Section
Sgt Mihail Smirnov	Technical Inspector of buildings
Jr Sgt (fnu) Kasilov	Supply (OVS)
Sgt (fnu) Bayaranov	Supply (PFS)
Pfc Jacob I. Barshai	Artillery Repair Shop
1st Sgt Albert B. Kuzyakin	1st sergeant of Battery 120 mm Mortars
Pvt Urij Chainikov	Musician

[] no specific reasons for this seemingly radical change from two to three re-enlistments per year to requests from 25 men for re-enlistment in 1954. [] just an accident, not explainable by any apparent reason [] such as possibly an increase in re-enlistee privileges.

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Duty Positions Filled by Re-Enlistees

[] no where within the T/O of the regiment, if it could be called that, was there any suggestion of, or any notation indicating that certain duty positions were set aside for re-enlistees. However [] certain types of duty positions were most apt to be filled or sought for by a re-enlistee. Within [] regiment these following duty positions were held by re-enlistees in 1954 and 1955 []

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Projection Machine Operator	Clerk in Supply Section
Reproductionist of Secret Document Sec	Clerk in Finance Section
Chief of Control Check Point	Technical Inspector of Bldgs.
Chief of Tank Repair Shop	Senior Clerk of Artillery Section
Chief of OVS Supply Warehouse	Chief of Fuel and Oil Shop
Chief of Artillery-Armor Supply	Chief of PFS Supply Warehouse
Commander of Artillery Repair Shop	First Sgt of 85 mm Btry
First Sgt of 120-mm Mortar Btry	Chief of Armor Repair Shop
Chief of Soldier dining room	Musicians

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Army-Wide Data on Re-Enlistees

[] no solid information to the number of possible percentage of "sverkhspechniki's" within the Army. Based on rumor, hearsay and conversations, [] estimate that less than or approximately one percent of Soviet Army EM was composed of re-enlistees. []

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Promotions

[] the re-enlistee did not receive an automatic promotion in grade on re-enlistment, over the grade held prior to this. [] grade did not determine the amount of pay received, only the duty position held determined it. Even though an individual might have a grade higher than that called for by a duty position, he was not demoted to that grade when he took the position. [] no attempt was made to place a man in a

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position equal to his grade or previous position held. Knowledge of duty position to be filled was the prime requisite.

Re-Enlistment Procedures

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a. Processing of Application

the following was regimental procedure for individuals desiring to re-enlist:

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- (1) A request, either written or oral request made either way), was submitted approximately two months prior to the end of the present tour of service to the CO of the unit.
- (2) The unit CO wrote a report on the particular soldier, covering his ability and character. He wrote it either directly upon written request or separately and submitted it to the Chief of Personnel Section, Regimental Headquarters.
- (3) The Chief of Personnel Section gathered all such requests and submitted to Regimental CO for approval or disapproval.
- (4) Upon approval of request by Regimental CO, an order was out stating that the individual concerned had been accepted as a "sverkhsrochnik" for a period of two years.

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b. Role of Division in Processing Applications

Although a list of all re-enlistees within the regiment was sent to division

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the Regimental CO was the final approving authority on requests for re-enlistment. However, source stated, if a re-enlistee was discharged for cause, the order came down from division, and regiment could not itself discharge such a re-enlistee. He added that in some respects the order for discharge of certain re-enlistees during 1955 came as a surprise to Regimental Headquarters. Undoubtedly division had been informed secretly (or not through regimental headquarters) of re-enlistees who were "undisciplined" or not performing their duties satisfactorily because of excessive drinking, fraternization, etc.

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c. Documentation

After being appointed a "sverkhsrochnik", the following additional steps had to be taken. Documents were obtained or filled out and turned in to regiment for file within the individual folder kept on each re-enlistee

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This folder contained the following information on each re-enlistee,

Initial request of re-enlistee (this was not mandatory for reasons stated previously in this report).

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Report written by re-enlistee's unit CO.

Character reference of Regimental Komsomol or Party organization, which was obtained personally by the re-enlistee concerned. Of all the re-enlistees mentioned in this report, only one, Jr Sgt (fnu) Shaposhnikov (mentioned previously) was not a Komsomol or Party member. He did, however, receive a political character rating from the Komsomol organization. The others received character references from their Party or Komsomol unit.

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Statement of service (posluzhnoy list). [redacted] this was a four-page form questionnaire, filled out by each re-enlistee with his [redacted] aid and under his observation. It set forth the re-enlistee's parents, Party affiliation, previous service, previous places of employment and other unremembered data.

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A medical evaluation from the regimental doctor. This was personally obtained by the re-enlistee concerned.

A copy of the regimental order appointing the individual a "sverkhs-rochnik".

A short biography written personally by the re-enlistee concerned.

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Identification Documents of Re-Enlistee

[redacted] upon being re-enlisted the individual turned in his service booklet (Sluzhebnyaya Kniga) and was issued a grey-colored personal identification booklet consisting of several pages (udostoverenye lichnosti).³ Upon his being demobilized this was turned in to the individual's Voenkomat. [redacted] no other identification was carried by the re-enlistee.

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